

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03451 181611Z

62

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 A-01 /016 W

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R 181530Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2082

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, JM

SUBJECT: GOJ INQUIRY CONCERNING FIREARMS POSSESSED BY EMBASSY
AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR MARINE SECURITY GUARD
DETACHMENT

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 3174

1. REFTEL REPORTED BREAK-IN AT EMBASSY CHANCERY AUGUST 2.
AS REPORTED INTRUDERS DID ATTEMPT THEFT FIREARMS. JAMAICAN'
POLICE INVESTIGATORS SAW THESE WEAPONS AND OTHERS DURING COURSE
OF INVESTIGATION AT EMBASSY. ALL WEAPONS WERE EITHER USG ISSUE
TO MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT OR PERSONAL WEAPONS OF
STAFF STORED AT CHANCERY. SEVERAL IN BOTH CATEGORIES NOT
REGISTERED LOCALLY SINCE THEY ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE OUTSIDE
CHANCERY.

2. APPARENTLY AS A CONSEQUENCE ABOVE EVENTS EMBASSY HAS
RECEIVED INFORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS FOR DETAILS ON "NUMBER OF FIREARMS KEPT BY YOUR
MISSION, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF WHO ARE
AUTHORIZED TO USE FIREARMS". WE INTEND REPLY ORALLY
AND WITHOUT SPECIFICS AS FOLLOWS:

A. ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF POSSESSING PERSONAL FIREARMS OUTSIDE
OF CHANCERY HAVE REGISTERED THOSE WEAPONS WITH JAMAICAN
AUTHORITIES.

B. THE FEW WEAPONS WITHIN THE CHANCERY ARE EITHER ASSIGNED
TO MSG DETACHMENT OR ARE PERSONAL WEAPONS STORED AT EMBASSY
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PAGE 02 KINGST 03451 181611Z

AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION.

C. NUMBER WEAPONS CATEGORY B. IS SMALL.

D. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER MOST WEAPONS ASSIGNED TO MSG
DETACHMENT ARE REGISTERED.

3. WHILE WE CAN FEND OFF THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM ALONG ABOVE
LINES, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT GOJ MAY ATTEMPT TO RAISE
FORMALLY QUESTION MSG PRESENCE AND ITS POSSESSION OF WEAPONS.
IN LATTER CONNECTION, DESPITE THOROUGH FILE CHECK, WE CANNOT
LOCATE ANY AGREEMENT WITH GOJ CONCERNING MSG PRESENCE.
REQUEST DEPARTMENT LOCATE AND POUCH COPY TO AMBASSADOR AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE, WITH TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY MAIN POINTS INCLUDING ANY
SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO WEAPONS. ASSUME SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD
HAVE BEEN ENTERED INTO SOMETIME IN EARLY TO MID SIXTIES
FOLLOWING JAMAICA'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1962.
GERARD

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